

Message Text

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15

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2506

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T TEHRAN 3784

KUWAIT PASS ABU DHABI AND MUSCAT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN PERSIAN GULF POLICY

REF: STATE 93108

1. DCM AND MIKLOS CALLED ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MIRFENDERESKI MAY 31 AND IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION ASKED WHETHER IRANIAN INITIATIVES NOTED IN REFTEL HAD BEEN LAUNCHED AND WHETHER THERE WERE ANY RESULTS AS YET. MIRFENDERESKI SAID THAT GOI HAD INDEED BROACHED THE SUBJECT OF REACHING A MORE FORMAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ITS PERSIAN GULF NEIGHBORS ON SECURITY AND OTHER MATTERS AND THAT WITHOUT EXCEPTION ALL RECOGNIZED IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO HAVE IRAN'S FRIENDSHIP AND PROTECTION BUT NONE WANTED TO SEE ANY COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT FORMALIZED. HE SAID EACH HAD DIFFERENT REASONS FOR WANTING TO AVOID MORE PUBLIC ASSOCIATION WITH IRAN BUT ALL ADDED UP TO THEIR BEING ARAB. HE SAID IRAN HAD NO DESIRE TO FORCE ITSELF ON ITS NEIGHBORS, WHO NEEDED IRAN MORE THAN

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IT NEEDED THEM, BUT NONETHELESS IRAN WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE KNOWN ITS WILLINGNESS TO BE OF WHATEVER ASSISTANCE IT COULD TO ITS NEIGHBORS IF ASKED.

2. WE SAID THAT SOME OBSERVERS FELT THAT PART OF THE PROBLEM OF DEVELOPING CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN PERSIAN GULF LITTORAL STATES STEMMED FROM THE UNRESOLVED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND ABU DHABI AND FROM THE LACK OF SAUDI RECOGNITION OF THE UAE. UNTIL THESE DIFFERENCES WERE OVERCOME ONE COULD SEE THAT CROSS-GULF COOPERATION, AT LEAST IN A MULTILATERAL CONTEXT, WOULD BE DIFFICULT. ON THIS MIRFENDERESKI EXPRESSED SOME PUZZLEMENT OVER SAUDI ATTITUDES TOWARD ITS PENINSULA NEIGHBORS. HE NOTED FOR EXAMPLE THAT THE SAUDIS WERE HELPING SHEIKH SAQR BIN MOHAMMED AL QASIMI OF RAS AL KHAIMA WITH ARMS MONEY AND PERSONNEL. HE CERTAINLY DID NOT THINK THIS WAS IN THE INTERESTS OF UAE SOLIDARITY NOR IN IRAN'S INTEREST, AS SHEIKH SAQR CONTINUES TO BE UNREMITTINGLY HOSTILE TOWARD IRAN. HE SAID THAT WHEN IRAN SPOKE TO SAUDI ARABIA ABOUT THIS THEY REPLIED THAT BETTER THEY HAVE A HAND IN WITH SHEIKH SAQR THAN HE IRAQIS, WHO WOULD CERTAINLY MOVE IN IF THEY WERE NOT THERE. SIMILARLY, MIRFENDERESKI SAID THAT THE SAUDIS CONTINUED TO APPEAR SOMEWHAT AMBIVALENT IN THEIR POLICY TOWARD YEMEN AND TO PURSUE THEIR INTERESTS THERE MAINLY ALONG THE FAMILIAR LINES OF SUBSIDIZING THE TRIBES AND KEEPING THEM AND THE GOVERNMENT OFF BALANCE. HE SAID THAT IRAN HAS TRIED VERY HARD TO GIVE SOME SUBSTANCE TO SAUDI-IRANIAN COOPERATION BUT FINDS THAT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO GET BEYOND THE RHETORICAL STAGE.

3. IN DISCUSSING OTHER ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION ACROSS THE GULF MIRFENDERESKI SAID THAT DUBAI OUGHT TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN HELPING QABOOS IN OMAN. HE SAID IRAN HAD REPORTS THAT THINGS WERE NOT GOING WELL THERE AND QABOOS COULD USE ALL THE HELP HE CAN GET. FURTHER QABOOS FEELS THAT HE IS ON THE FRONTLINE AND FIGHTING HIS NEIGHBORS' BATTLES FOR THEM. HE SHOULD NOT FEEL THAT HE IS BEING A BEGGAR IN ASKING FOR HELP FROM HIS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS. AFTER ALL, HE SAID, IF
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QABOOS FAILS, THE REVOLUTIONARY VIRUS IS SURE TO SPREAD TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IRAN CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE ARABS HAVE NOT BEEN MORE HELPFUL.
HELMS

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